

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 ERDA-05 OIC-02 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 TRSE-00

BIB-01 NRC-05 /088 W

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R 091540Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1653

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION USNATO

USEUCOM

USDOCOSOUTH

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CY TU US UK

SUBJ: AKEL OPENS DEBATE ON SBA'S

REF: FBIS TA081910Z NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF CALLS FOR ABOLITION OF SBA'S, INTER ALIA ON GROUNDS THAT U.S. SPY PLANES LOCATED THERE VIOLATE TREATY OF ESTABLISHMENT. SPEECH LARGELY PRO FORMA; PRESS COVERAGE MINIMAL. HOUSE DEBATE TO CONTINUE NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. MAY 8 AKEL BOSS PAPAIOANNOU OPENED DEBATE ON SBA'S (HE HAD INSCRIBED ITEM ON AGENDA APRIL 24). HE PROPOSED THAT HOUSE URGE GOC TO TELL UK THAT (A) IT HAS VIOLATED TREATY OF ESTABLISHMENT BY ALLOWING USG TO USE SBA'S FOR INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT TREATY THEREFORE NULL AND VOID; (B) IT MUST PAY ARREARAGE

OF 60 MILLION CYPRUS POUNDS, IN ORDER TO REPAIR ECONOMIC DAMAGE FROM 1974 COUP, WAR; AND (C) IT MUST "PREPARE TO ABOLISH THE BASES AND RETURN LAND TO GOC."

3. PAPAIOANNOU LARDED REMARKS WITH SHIBBOLETHS OF IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACIES, CIA MACHINATIONS AGAINST CYPRUS. HE CLAIMED THAT: AMERICAN U-2'S ON SBA'S SPY ON ARAB STATES AND CAUCASUS REGION OF RUSSIA; CIA HAS SPENT VAST SUMS TO PREVENT LEFT FROM COMING TO POWER IN CYPRUS; ADAMS/COTTRELL BOOKS ON CYPRUS ARE CIA PROJECTS DESIGNED TO PREPARE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION FOR WHAT HAPPENED LAST JULY; TURKS HAVE PROMISED BASES IN KARPASS PENINSULA, USE OF FAMAGUSTA HARBOR TO USG.

4. GRAVAMEN OF CHARGES AGAINST UK WAS THAT BRITISH HAD EXTORTED BASES IN 1959, THAT BASES HAVE BEEN SOURCE OF ALL EVIL FOR CYPRUS, AND THAT UK REFUSES TO PAY ALLEGED ARREARAGE OF 60 MILLION CYPRUS POUNDS WHILE SEEKING TO SHIFT ECONOMIC BURDEN OF BASE MAINTENANCE TO NATO, USG.

5. EMBASSY LOCAL WHO ATTENDED HOUSE SESSION SAYS MANY REPS, INCLUDING MAVERICK RADICAL VASSOS LYSSARIDES, LEFT FLOOR AS PAPAIOANNOU BEGAN TO SPEAK. NO ONE REPLIED. ASIDE FROM COMMUNIST HARAVGHI, GREEK PRESS MAY 9 GIVES SPEECH MINIMAL COVERAGE. DEBATE TO CONTINUE AT NEXT SESSION.

6. COMMENT: SPEECH SEEMS LARGELY PRO FORMA: IT LACKS HARD-HITTING CALL FOR ABOLITION OF SBA'S, AND ITS ARGUMENTATION CONTAINS NOTHING NEW. IF DEBATE RESUMES, SOME REPS MAY DEFEND GOC'S PUBLIC EXPLANATION, BLAND AND UNIMPEACHABLE, THAT IT GAVE PRIOR CONSENT FOR USG ACTIVITY AT SBA'S CONNECTED WITH MID-EAST PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS AND THAT SUCH ACTIVITY DOES NOT HARM GOC INTERESTS. NO ONE LIKELY DEFEND SBA'S, PER SE. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NICOSI01573
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750163-0995
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750566/aaaachzj.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 FBIS TA081910Z
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <30 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AKEL OPENS DEBATE ON SBA'S
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, US, UK, SBA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006